

before line 4, insert

--Discussion of the Background--.

Page 2, before line 29, insert

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 5, before line 29, insert

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 6, before line 1, insert

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Page 14, change "CLAIMS" to

WHAT IS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:-

Please amend Claim 1-18 as follows:

1. (Amended) Process for manufacturing a composite tape [(10)] based on reinforcing fibres and on a thermoplastic organic material, consisting in bringing together and in consolidating a multiplicity of continuous yarns [(11)], characterized in that:

[-] yarns [(11)] based on thermoplastic and reinforcing fibres and entrained and brought together in a parallel manner in the form of a sheet [(12)];

[- the] said sheet [(12)] is made to enter a zone in which it is heated to a temperature reaching at least the melting point of the thermoplastic without reaching the softening temperature of the reinforcing fibres;

[-] the sheet [(12)] is made to pass through a rotating impregnation device [(80)], while maintaining its temperature at a temperature at which the thermoplastic is malleable, in order to distribute the molten thermoplastic uniformly and guarantee that the reinforcing

fibres are completely impregnated by the latter;

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[-] the sheet [(12)] is introduced into a shaping and centring device [(100)], while maintaining its temperature at a temperature at which the thermoplastic is malleable, so as to obtain a tape [(13)] formed by bringing the yarns [(11)] together so as to be touching, thereby creating transverse continuity;

[-] the tape [(13)] is cooled in order to consolidate the yarns by freezing the thermoplastic and its dimensional characteristics and its appearance are set in order to deliver [the] said composite tape [(10)].

Claim 2, line 2, delete "(11)".

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 2, delete "(11)", and
line 3, delete "(12)".

Claim 5, line 2, delete "(12)", and
line 4, delete "(80)".

Claim 6, line 3, delete "(10)".

7. (Amended) Apparatus for implementing the process according to [any one of Claims] Claim 1 [to 6], characterized in that it comprises:

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[-] means [(130)] for entraining the continuous yarns [(11)] consisting of reinforcing filaments and of thermoplastic filaments and means [(50)] for bringing [the] said continuous yarns into the form of a sheet [(12)];

[-] means [(70)] for heating [the] said sheet [(12)] to a temperature reaching at least the melting point of the thermoplastic but not the softening temperature of the reinforcing filaments;

[-] a rotating device [(80)] for impregnating the heated sheet so as to distribute the molten thermoplastic uniformly and guarantee that the reinforcing filaments are completely

impregnated by the latter;

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cut [-] a device [(100)] for shaping and centring the sheet [(12)] so as to convert it into a tape [(13)];

[-] a calender [(110)] for cooling the tape [(13)], making it possible to freeze the thermoplastic and to consolidate the yarns [(11)] and form the final tape [(10)].

Claim 8, line 2, delete "(90)";

line 3, delete "(12)"; and

line 5, delete "(80)".

Claim 9, line 2, delete "(70, 90)".

Claim 10, line 2, delete "(50)";

line 3, delete "(51)"; and

line 4, delete "(11)".

Claim 11, line 2, delete "(80)";

line 3, delete "(81)"; and

line 5, delete "(12)".

Claim 12, line 2, delete "(81)"; and

same line, delete "(82)".

Claim 13, line 2, delete "(100)";

line 3, delete "(101)";

same line, delete "(102)";

line 6, delete "(12)"; and

line 8, delete "(13)".

Claim 14, line 2, delete "(110)";

line 4, delete "(13)"; and

line 6, delete "(10)".